

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image, comprising:

receiving at least the first image, and where the first image comprises an analog image, converting the analog image to a digital image; and

forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion, thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the second image.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising preparing at least the second image for integration with at least the first image by:

receiving at least the second image, and where the ~~first~~ second image comprises an analog image, converting the analog image to a second digital image; and

forming a second compressed image.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the second compressed image is formed from a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for integration with the first compressed image.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second portion are different portions within the same image area.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second portion are different portions within different image areas.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion comprises one or more slices of the first image.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the second portion comprises one or more slices of the second image.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising combining the first compressed image and the second compressed image by interleaving the portion and the second portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion of the frame.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame with a

reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the portion of a different frame.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second portion of a different frame.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image includes a still image, and the second image includes a motion video image, a still image, or a combination of both.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first image is a Barker.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image comprising:

an input for receiving at least the first image, and where the first image is an analog image, for converting the analog image to a digital image; and

an encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion, thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with at least the second image.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising an input for receiving at least the second image, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second compressed image is formed from a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion, thereby preparing the second compressed image for integration with the first compressed image.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second portion are different regions within the same image area.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second portion are different regions within different image areas.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into slices.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into slices.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second compressed image by interleaving.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein one or more of the first image or the second image includes at least one frame.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion of the frame.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of one frame with a reference to a segment

of the first image within the portion of a different frame.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second portion of a different frame.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first image is a Barker.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image by interleaving the first image with the second image.

37. (Currently Amended) A system for preparing at least a first image, wherein the first image is a digital image, for integration with at least a second image, comprising:

a receiver for receiving at least the first image; and

at least a first encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first

image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion, thereby preparing the first compressed image for integration with the second image.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving at least a second image; and

at least a second encoder for forming a second compressed image, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image from a second portion of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the portion and the second portion are different regions within the same image area.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the portion and the second portion are different regions within different image areas.

42. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments.

43. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments.

44. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image includes at least one frame.

45. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the second image includes at least one frame.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion of the frame.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion of the frame.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the portion of a different frame.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion of one frame with a

reference to a segment of the second image within the second portion of a different frame.

50. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the first image is a Barker.

52. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

53. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

54. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for integrating at least a first image, wherein the first image comprises a digital image, with at least a second image, wherein the second image comprises a digital image, comprising:

forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first digital image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first digital image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion; and combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising forming a second compressed image, wherein the step of combining combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the second compressed image is formed, restricted to a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the step of combining comprises selecting first portions of the first compressed image within the portion, selecting second portions of the second compressed image within the second portion, and combining the selected first portions and second portions.

59. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image comprising:

an encoder for forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the portion with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion; and
a combiner for combining the first compressed image and the second image to form an integrated image.

60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image, and the combiner combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image.

61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the second compressed image is formed from a second portion of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the second portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions.

63. (Currently Amended) A system for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image, comprising:

at least a first encoder for receiving the first image and forming a first compressed image from a portion of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the portion and precluding compression of portions of the first image complementary to the portion; and

a combiner for combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63, further comprising:

at least a second encoder for receiving the second image and forming a second compressed image, wherein the combiner combines the first compressed image and the second compressed image.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image from a second portion of a second image area, by representing at

least one segment of the second image within the second portion with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second portion.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the portion, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the portion, and combines the selected first portions and second portions.